WORLD

BOOK 2

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this second book is to draw a model, and use it as a subjective snapshot of the state of world affairs, at the end of this century's second decade. This model tends to simplify the forces in-play, thus does not aim to predict the result of a game, if any.

The effort of simplification stems from the fact that we live in an era of high complexity, in terms of knowledge and technological advance, that bring-in a whole new set of risks, similar in their magnitude to mass destruction weapons. These risks are exacerbated by the factual global warming, that we are witnessing, within the lifetime of a person.

The need for simplification will be necessary for a macro-analysis of today's superpowers, their motives and the mechanics behind their probable actions. Thus, It would be sufficient if this text finds usage as a compass to not lose the trail, the Northern Star, amidst a storm of technical noise.

This era is one where different generations, separated by a wall of knowledge about information technology co-exist; and one where different peoples, physically separated by few hours "à vol-d'oiseau", seem to live in different epochs, virtually separated by walls of administration, money and weapons.

The quest is to find out what is holding us back, in knowledge and in action, from understanding the settings of our present world.

1 A SCRAMBLE

CIRCUS At the turn of this new century, the scramble for the American legacy takes a turn that overwhelms the senses.

Despite the appearance of irrecoverable disruptions, and looming immediate threats fed to our own fearful minds, we don't live in a different world. This world contains the old one, thus comes with a new set of rules that apply to both worlds, or if you prefer a version update. This translates in the events that precipitate the previous century's institutions to their end, so we contemplate their decay before our connected eyes.

Facing such big scale events as a monolithic block, we might find satisfaction in an uninformed powerlessness.

2 A CHURCH

GREEN THE GOD Daily news feeds hide from within a bigger picture that has stretched since the last 3 decades.

The two dominant ideologies of the 20th century see their influence cramble in a sweeping flow of information that becomes more-and-more invasive. The implosion of the Soviet Union in the late 80s, i.e. state-communism, is now followed by the implosion of the neoliberal American empire, in its most burlesque form. For the non-trained eye, this - seemingly surreptitious - power shift that is occurring, at the turn of this increasingly strange new era, looks a lot like the end of the world. It is not the end of the world, but just the end of a version of it. It was not fulgurant neither.

The shock therapy inflicted to the Russian people, propagated over time and space, and ended up killing both the patient and the administrator of the drug.

For Historians of the future, today's events might be fit well in the category of "slow death of empires". A counter-culture has suppressed the social movements of the 20th century 60s, leaders that were relevant for conflicts of the past; laying the ground for a new, and perhaps archaic, certainly programmatically-interconnected, post-economic era.

3 THE MONEY

SUBPRIME In 2008, the market-based banking system, a parasite that killed its host, ended up severing the head of the Anglo-Saxon hegemony.

The damage hit the American economic credibility on the international level, and brought social and political unrest within the world powers, who got hooked on capital market alphas. In the US, the banks and the military apparatus siphoned the power from the people. These modern aristocrats then, brought their economic system to kernel panic.

The American empire has not been challenged on the military field, but was rather owned from the inside, first by bankers, and later on by local dynasties, with minimum casualties and maximum structural damage. The U.S are being continuously harassed on the fringes, and on the markets that it once controlled.

The consequences of the 2008 financial crisis, until now, affect our lives directly and indirectly; and in a final act of a very American show, the United States finds

themselves in a corner, where they would spend the years to come dealing with their inner demons.

4 A HATE

SUPREMACY OF RACE The rise of xenophobic and isolationist movements in the Western world was the obvious symptom of the economic inequality and crisis in the rich countries. They tied their fate to an unhinged capitalism, getting close by the day to a system exhaust, which once reached, hit the most the regular people who did not actively take part in the global markets' débauche.

The unhinged part is the one where the distribution of wealth, or therefore the lack of it, became a norm in an abnormal world.

The very few countries which succeeded in hedging their positions, and have had a conservative approach to securitzation, made it past the financial collapse. Notably, Germany and China successfully transitioned through the hyper-financial era without losing much of their industrial grip, and global market shares, making de-facto their peoples wealthier and prosperous at the turn of the 21st century. Two economies, two approaches.

What is cardinally different, in this cycle, is the impact and entropy that is provided by the technologies which accelerate whatever the people are feeling, or in different terms extrapolate the "Mood of the era". The social environment became more unpredictable, and more vilatile, since the people realized that they are equipped with strong lamp torchs that can easily shine some very strong light on whatever is being hidden, be it political practice, business mal-practice, industrial pollution...

As if regular citizens gained a new universal consciousness, made possible with the emergence of information theory. The 21st century still did not ingest its last 3 decades, yet.

5 A VALSE

INTERNET-OF-SHIT By the staple rules of marginal utility and marginal efficiency, the global economic system has naturally shifted, and started valsing with a more efficient and more complex interconnected system, that is the internet; one which bluntly ignores the calssic structures of nation states.

Despite the obvious trans-national architecture and usage of the internet, many post-modern thinkers still do not contemplate any other alternative to the predominant political-capitalistic system that has made the bread and butter of the previous century's super powers. It seemed for a decade that American materialism won over any other economic thought.

More appaling, for these same contemporary thinkers, the internet was ought to be used to automate the practices that were prevalent in the previous century.

Even from a business perspective, the practice has been rather in-favor of exploiting whatever is available to exploit, and there is plenty of exploitation with computers. The money makers were the same vulnerabilities that have been exploited in the 1900s, for the same motives, i.e. ideology, political power and money at record levels. However with the internet the stage shrunk, education became the norm, and any social anger was potentially universal.

The dominant wealth-oriented thought has weakened, and started to crumble under its weight. In the meanwhile, modern societies became aware, and mature enough to innovate beyond economic motives, even where economic failures are the most

hardly felt. The barrier to entry to the tools - that might or not be weaponized - became ridiculously low to the point that a "script kid" might eventually take down a sophisticated infrastructure, if the latter is not secured properly.

Those pseudo thinkers, economists, politicians, techies, and nationalist trouble makers - like Bannon in Italy -, fail to consider the free access to education and free trade, that connected machines can achieve without their consent.

For the future generations, the hate that is propagated today by biased algorithms is permanently logged, and the people of today are responsible for themselves in a logged future. The archives of tomorrow will be necessarily and thoroughly studied.

6 A MODEL

CHESS BOARD The interested eye can quickly detect patterns that hint to the global shift in power. The major trend perceived is one where last century's losers are gearing up, to become 21st century's power horses.

The model suggested below tries to sum-up the macro - and most obvious - signs of shift on the global level, going through the world's regions. :

EASTERN ASIA Starting from the far East, Japan's biggest threat is a potential major Chinese military presence, and Nihonjins would have to mitigate this risk without the American usual interventionism. This is confirmed by a historical trade agreement between the EU and the Nippon state, that would cut dry the umbilical cord that linked those allies to the American power horse [1].

SOUTH EAST ASIA Still in Asia, India rises as a regional force, a natural US ally, that must not be ignored more-so because of the existence many Indian-US executives at the head of major global corporations. This will probably lead to more turbulence in the region, as India is still struggling with organizational difficulties, and finds itself surrounded by powerful and ambitious neighbors, notably the Chinese Dragon, and the naughty Pakistan [2].

EUROPE Germany, leading a weakened but rich Europe, would have to contain the rising powers of the Russian dictatorship, that has a major influence on the Eastern European block [3]; from within, Germany will face extreme isolationist right wing movements, spread all over the place on the European continent. The Germans will likely prefer to deal with Russians, outside of the American proxy, and the German peoples will start to become nostalgic of the historical ties that link them to the Russian peoples [4].

MEDITERRANEA In the Mediterranean region, there will be major challenges to restore imploded territories like Syria and Libya [5], in addition to the challenging economic integration of the Algerian mastodon. The fall of the Saudis [6], and the demise of US-backed Saudi influence on the North African and Middle Eastern regions will likely play in the favor of the Eastern power horses; i.e. Iran and Turkey which are both under doubtful - but serious - regimes.

1 https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2017/07/08/a-new-trade-deal-between-the-eu-and-japan
2 https://www.rt.com/news/452627-india-pakistan-conflict-spillover/
3 https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/12/white-europe-60000-nationalists-march-on-polands-independence-day
4 https://oilprice.com/Energy/Natural-Gas/Has-The-US-Lost-The-Nordstream-2-Battle.html
5 https://www.dw.com/en/could-libya-be-russias-new-syria/a-48277255
6 https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/why-business-usual-may-soon-change-saudi-arabia

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA In the meanwhile African countries, south of the Sahara, know an unprecedented wave of growth [7], that will still take decades to peak for the benefit of whichever super power wins the favors of the African peoples. The promised land of the 21st Century, especially for the black American community.

SOUTH AMERICA For the South American continent, the concerned countries are purging, at different levels, their heavy US legacy and rising as independent states, always with the exception of Brazil. The laborious South American continent will thrive once it eradicate the roots of chronic corruption.

In this simplified scheme of things, there will be natural alliances, unearthed historical rivalries, unholy collaborations, nuclear disaster specters, and of course manipulations of all kinds. I would confess that I enjoy this agitated world as if it was a game, that deserves a fair amount of pop-corn.

7 A DAWLA

UNPREDICT One of the words that I like the most in the Arabic language, is the term "Dawla" [/daw.la/] which can be loosely translated to “State”.

“Dawla” has its roots in “Tadawl”, which can be translated as “Succession” or “Rotation”. This has the merit of fixing the state of nations to a perpetual cycle of successions, as if a State (regime) can never exist in a permanent fashion, according to the logic of the Arabic language [8].

With no doubt, the political power has shifted to the East, in favor of China, at the expense of American - pre-2001 - influence. US’s most important allies, i.e. Germany and Japan, realize that they can’t rely indefinitely on the good will of Americans, to protect their interests, and encapsulate their economies.

The US will be facing hard choices, and none of these options will consist of a large military deployment on foreign soil, nor ideological and political influence, outside of the North American continent. This observation might seem counter-intuitive, especially with the large presence of American troops on the African continent; but this military presence is comparable to the presence of German and French soldiers on the same continent.

It is a natural instinct for Europeans, and European descendants, to tip-toe the new lands with armed forces, even though it is not the only available option. Any military deployment is not a viable long-term option for populations anymore, especially for the ones aware of the reality of the field.

For Americans, their only hope is the cultural emancipation of the American black community, and their likely cultural expansion towards the mother continent. For the American economy, the dominant trend suggests that US corporations will recenter their forces on non-fossil energy and IT, even though technology companies will become more international, and less American, through the years.

8 A LEGACY

FORWARD INTEGRITY Mexico and Canada are provably the the natural economic partners of the USA.

7 https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2018-05-29/ethiopia-already-is-the-china-of-africa
8 For the most courageous here is the Arabic wikipedia page to define the word Dawla: https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84%D8%A9

Despite this friendly immediate environment, the US American apparent chaos will likely stretch over the years, especially now that organized and politicized nativist counterculture, i.e. American white supremacists, became emboldened against the minorities who did not cause their misfortune. It is the end of a century-long American hegemony, triggered by Americans themselves; however is certainly not the end of the 200 years old American Democracy.

South American countries will probably need to restructure their economies, as they still have significant reserves of natural and human wealth. The American continent might become the continent of a prosperous Canada, Mexico, colombia and Uruguay, rather than a purely US American one.

9 A SILK-ROAD

PROTO-MONEY China, headed by a proto-communist regime, is still not prone to spreading democracy with weapons on foreign territory, for now.

However empirically true, this statement would be vehemently denied by Japanese, South East Asians, and Indians. The Muslim Uyghurs are a first sign of a very frightening Chinese state dogmatism.

Heading West, China will probably require an access to the Mediterranean Sea, and its best card is the alliance with Iran and Turkey, which are historical powers in the region. Trade is the engine that animates the dragon, and the global dominance of the Chinese economy is a confirmed matter by now, under the new Silk-Road, or One Belt One road, initiative [9].

Turkey and Iran, themselves are natural allies to China, who also share their hatred for the Saudi Wahabis, and predate the latter's unnatural and nefarious influence on the Middle Eastern region. This would mean the end of the Saudi regime, and their actual allies, i.e. Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, who would probably flip at the first sign.

10 A CURSE

SNAKE OIL Without the deprecating oil income, the Gulf region - excluding non-exhaustively Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, who are neutral [10] or allied with Iran - the Arabian Gulf will inevitably re-embrace its arid desert, for lack of vision and lack of the most basic intentions to invest in the post-fossil fuel era [11].

In other terms, the magnificent failure of the American greater Middle Eastern project [12] will take place all around the Arabic Peninsula, and concentrate in the kingdom of Desert. Once the fluid that lies underneath the Arabian desert will cease to be vital, the need for a extremist regime will become superfluous.

The super powers who are funding the armement, of the Arab kingdom, will soon realize that their strategy in the region must not have involved tools that can be used against them. Besides weaponry, heavy and light, the Saudis and the UAE are recycling the Arab-speaking hackers, and training entire armies of social engineers, offensive script kiddies and tech-savvy persistent threats; the whole wrapped in a very rigid religious thinking.

9 https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/china/chinas-one-belt-one-road-will-it-reshape-global-trade
10 https://www.mei.edu/publications/kuwait-oman-and-qatar-crisis
11 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmyrbKBZ6SU
12 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater_Middle_East

As probable losers, this analysis takes the freedom to make an analogy between Russia and Saudi Arabia, which are both governed by totalitarian rulers, and which rely heavily on the price of the barrel of oil.

They both represent armed threats for their respective regions, and are both disposable allies, without much stakes in letting them down, once the renewable energy productivity reaches a plateau. In an oversimplification attempt, Saudi Arabia can't compete with Iran or Turkey anymore, the same way Russia can't compete with Germany.

11 A POLITEIA

THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE FREE Europe's greatest threat is more of an internal political one, as European politicians constantly face the immediate threat of convinced totalitarian racist forces from within [13].

It still very likely that a major state like France will succumb, after many others, to the seductive call of far-right white nationalism.

As reversed picture of last century's fascims, the heart of white supremacy is everywhere except in Gremany. That is, with the consequences of the last wave of European fascism, the topic of the next book.

For now, the European Union wishes to keep a form of internal integrity, and might keep it by letting their respective members claim the territories they deem themselves entitled-to, i.e. former colonies for the old colonial powers, even though these territories were acquired through a direct military invasion.

This observations is less likely given the growing German influence on African affairs, and the outcome remains quite unlcear.

13 https://fabiusmaximus.com/2016/01/23/stratfor-immigration-effects-on-german-politics-europe-93355/